GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4708
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS UNDER NFBS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of imsappropriation of funds released under National Family Benefit Scheme have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details and amount thereof, State-wise;

(c) the action taken against the officials involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that benefits may reach the needy families?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a): Yes Sir, two cases of misappropriation have so far been brought to the notice from the State of Maharashtra.

(b): In Tahsil Purandhar of Pune District, Rs. 63,455/- was misappropriated on 27.8.1998 and in Tahsil Bhor of the same district, Rs. 60,600/- was misappropriated during the period 15.5.1997 to 18.6.1997.

(c): As per information received, in Tahsil Purandhar, the amount has been recovered from the officer concerned and a complaint lodged under Section 409 of the IPC.In respect of Tahsil Bhor, a criminal complaint was filed against the concerned officials under Sections 409, 420 etc. of the IPC.It is informed that the amount defalcated has been made good and payment made to the beneficiaries. At present, the matter is pending in the Court.

(d): It is principally the responsibility of the State Government to ensure the proper implementation of the Scheme.In order to ensure that benefits may reach the needy families, the Central Government has laid down detailed Guidelines which, inter-alia, call upon the State/UT Governments to ensure wide and continuous publicity to the benefits under the National Social Assistance Programme, to ensure that application forms are widely available in local languages, that the procedure for verification of applications is prompt and simple and the sanctions are expeditious. State Governments have been asked to ensure that delays and malpractice in disbursement are eliminated and adequate arrangements are made for accounting so as to enable a proper post-audit. The guidelines also prescribe the establishment of State Level and District Level Committees for the purpose of ensuring that only eligible persons obtain the benefits. The nodal responsibility for the implementation has been given to the District Collectors/CEOs of Zilla Parishads. The Guidelines also advise that the benefit be disbursed preferably in Gram Sabhas/Neighbourhood Committees in respect of rural and urban beneficiaries respectively. An important role has been contemplated for Panchayats/Municipalities in the identification, disbursement etc. In case any payment has been made on the basis of false or mistaken information about eligibility, the sanctioning authority shall have the right to recover the payment so made.